



EXHIBIT 9
DATE 2/4/2009
HB 276

COUNTY OF STILLWATER
STATE OF MONTANA
STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
P. O. BOX 970
COLUMBUS, MONTANA 59019

February 4, 2009

Montana House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee

RE: Stillwater County Opposition to HB 276

Distinguished Chairman and Members:

Stillwater County strongly opposes HB 276. This Bill would impose considerable, but unknown financial liabilities on Counties for the medical care of not only those arrested, but also persons merely taken into "custody" or "presumed custody" by law enforcement officers.

Stillwater County would find it impossible to budget for such expense which would greatly threaten the funds presently used for County services such as Public Safety, Fire, Search and Rescue, Road and Bridge.

This legislation would eliminate the chance of good faith negotiations between hospitals and Counties. Counties should not be denied this opportunity.

Please vote no on HB 276.

Sincerely,

STILLWATER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Davey
Maureen Davey, Chair

Absent for Signature
Dennis Shupak

Dennis R. Hoyem
Dennis R. Hoyem